

*This document provides detailed information on the module named below. It will be updated as necessary when modifications to the module are approved. Modules are allocated to a Subject Network not a programme, and may be accessed by students studying on different programmes.*

### 1 SUMMARY MODULE INFORMATION

**a Module title**

People and Nature.

**b SITS module code**

UC111939

**c UHI Subject Network**

Science, Environment and Rural Resource Management

**d Exam board**

MSc Managing Sustainable Mountain/Rural Development.

**e SCQF level**

11

**f SCOTCAT credit points**

15

**g Module leader and contact details (email, phone)**

Frank Rennie

[frank.rennie@lews.uhi.ac.uk](mailto:frank.rennie@lews.uhi.ac.uk)

01851-770451

**h Brief description of module**

The module introduces the discipline of human ecology as the relationship between people and their environment and attempts to analyse this in a rural context.

**i Pre-requisites or co-requisites**

An undergraduate degree award

**j Primary mode(s) of delivery and support**

Wholly online, supported by tutor

**k Assessment**

Essay, report, and online discussion

To pass the module overall, you must get at least 50% in each of the assignments and the discussion board, as well as an overall weighted mark of at least 50%.

**l Suitable for access via Learning Centres?**

N/A.

## 2 MODULE DESCRIPTOR

### a Aims

To explore the interface between natural and human systems. To provide an understanding of environmental and cultural perspectives in the pursuit of sustainable rural development.

### b Intended learning outcomes

On completion of the module the student should be able to:

- Understand the fundamental linkages between the environmental, social, economic, and social equity aspects of rural communities.
- Identify and evaluate the main operational problems and opportunities in implementing sustainable development in rural areas.
- Analyse and discuss relevant case studies which illustrate key aspects in the theory and practice of human ecology.

### c Indicative content

The module introduces the discipline of human ecology as the relationship between people and their environment and attempts to analyse this in a rural context. The subject has an inter-disciplinary approach, and students begin with an analysis of biological systems, moving on to look at human social systems, and then exploring the feedback loops caused by the interaction of these systems. In particular, students will explore the organisation of natural science ecosystems as a complex adaptive system, using examples of ecological succession and habitat management to illustrate. Students will then be encouraged to consider different perceptions of nature and natural systems management, and to relate these to current issues of the interaction between the human and natural environment ecosystem. The history of human management of the rural environment, and the implications for current and future policies of sustainable rural development will be emphasised using documented international examples.

### d Mode(s) of delivery and support for teaching and learning

Face-to-face	0 hours or	... %
Video-conference	0 hours or	... %
Supported online learning	40 hours or	... %
Self-directed learning	110 hours	... %
Total activity	150	100%

### e Assessment

One essay, one academic report (2000 words each) (40% each) and quality of participation in the module discussion board (20%)

### f Key learning resources

#### Reading List

#### Essential:

**Marten, G. G.**, 2001, *Human Ecology*. Earthscan: London. ISBN 1-85383-714-8

#### Recommended:

**Moran, E. F.** (2006) *People and Nature: An Introduction to Human Ecological Relations*. Blackwell Publishing ISBN 1-4051-0572-0

**Rogers, P. P., Jalal, K. F., and Boyd, J. A.** (2008) *An Introduction to Sustainable Development*. Earthscan: London

### **Background:**

**Atkins, P., Simmons, I., and Roberts, B.**, 1998, *People, Land and Time: An Historical Introduction to the Relations between Landscape, Culture and Environment*. Arnold: London. ISBN 0-340-67714-7

**Bryden, J. M.**, (Ed.) 1994, *Towards Sustainable Rural Communities*. The Guelph Seminar Series. Arkleton trust and the University of Guelph. ISBN 0-88955-390-4

**Doyle, T and McEachern, D.**, 2001, *Environmental Politics* 2nd Edition. Routledge: London. ISBN 0-415-21773-3

**Elliott, J. A.**, 1999, *An Introduction to Sustainable Development* 2nd Edition. Routledge: London. ISBN 0-415-19151-3.

**Goudie, A.**, 1993, *The Human Impact on the Natural Environment* 4th Edition. Blackwell: Oxford. ISBN 0-631-18484-8

**Goudie, A.**, 1994, *The Nature of the Environment*. Blackwell: Oxford. ISBN 0-631-18632-8

**Gregory, D., Johnston, R., Pratt, G. Watts, M.J., and Whatmore, S.** (2009) *The Dictionary of Human Geography*. Wiley-Blackwell ISBN 978-1-4051-3288-6

**Jeffery, R. and Vira, B.**, (Eds.), 2001, *Conflict and Co-operation in Participatory Natural Resource Management*. Palgrave Publishers: Basingstoke. ISBN 0-333-79277-7

**Pretty, J.**, 1998, *The Living Land*. Earthscan: London. ISBN 1-85383-517-X

**Smout, T. C.**, 2000, *Nature Contested*. Edinburgh University Press: Edinburgh. ISBN 0-7486-1411-7

**Vitek, W. and Jackson, W.**, (Eds.) 1996, *Rooted in the Land: Essays on Community and Place*. Yale. University Press: London. ISBN 0-300-06961-8

Digitised items of reading materials will be supplied to students during the module, and students will be referred to on-line journals, accessible through UHI Library and on the Web.

### **g Additional background information**

Tutorials will be supported by web-based learning resources and guided study provided by on-line contact (individual e-mail and computer conferencing).

### **h Specialist resource requirements**

- Internet access to web and e-mail facilities
- . Access to a PC and printer
- . Access to on-line library resources